

Having thus described the preferred embodiments, the invention is now claimed to be:

1 1. A method of releasing resources of a user session operating in a software
2 environment that includes an automatic memory management algorithm, the method
3 comprising:

4 detecting an impending execution of the automatic memory management
5 algorithm;

6 responsive to the detecting, accessing an object of the user session;

7 identifying one or more external resource references of said object;

8 releasing said one or more external resource references; and

9 repeating the accessing, identifying, and releasing for each object of the user
10 session.

1 2. The method as set forth in claim 1, further including:

2 performing the accessing, identifying, releasing, and repeating as a Listener
3 method belonging to a Java MyListener class in a Java environment; and

4 registering the Listener method with the user session.

1 3. The method as set forth in claim 2, wherein the registering includes:

2 setting a session attribute to correspond to an instance of the Listener method.

1 4. The method as set forth in claim 2, wherein the detecting includes:

2 notifying the registered Listener method of the impending expiration of the user

3 session.

1 5. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the detecting includes:
2 detecting an impending expiration of the user session.

1 6. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the accessing, identifying,
2 releasing, and repeating is performed prior to the execution of the automatic memory
3 management algorithm.

1 7. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein:
2 the identifying includes identifying a file resource; and
3 the releasing includes closing said file resource.

1 8. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein:
2 the identifying includes identifying an allocated resource; and
3 the releasing includes deallocating the allocated resource.

1 9. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the accessing of an object of
2 the user session includes:
3 obtaining an object identifier corresponding to said object from an object graph;
4 and
5 retrieving said object using the object identifier.

1 10. An article of manufacture comprising a program storage medium readable
2 by a computer and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to

3 perform a method for preparing a user session for expiration, the method including:
4 detecting an impending expiration of the user session;
5 traversing an object graph corresponding to the user session to locate user session
6 objects;
7 for each object located in the traversing, identifying allocated resources of the
8 object; and
9 for each identified allocated resource, deallocating said allocated resource.

1 11. The article of manufacture as set forth in claim 10, wherein the identifying
2 includes:
3 identifying resources selected from a group consisting of file handles, database
4 connections, sockets, and threads.

1 12. The article of manufacture as set forth in claim 10, wherein the traversing,
2 locating, identifying, and deallocating is completed prior to execution of a garbage
3 collection algorithm performed preparatory to expiration of the user session.

1 13. The article of manufacture as set forth in claim 10, wherein the one or
2 more instructions are encoded as one of:
3 Java bytecodes,
4 C# intermediate language (IL) code,
5 A compiled Java program, and
6 a compiled C# program.

1 **14.** The article of manufacture as set forth in claim **10**, wherein the traversing
2 of the object graph includes:
3 obtaining an enumeration of user session objects; and
4 looping through the enumeration of user session objects.

1 **15.** A system comprising:
2 a software program configured to initiate, process, and terminate user sessions;
3 a resource deallocation module linked to the software program to deallocate
4 allocated external resources of each object of a user session responsive to an impending
5 termination of said user session; and
6 an automatic memory management module invoked subsequent to the
7 deallocation performed by the resource deallocation module.

1 **16.** The system as set forth in claim **15**, further including:
2 a Java virtual machine implementing the software program, the resource
3 deallocation module, and the automatic memory management module.

1 **17.** The system as set forth in claim **15**, wherein the resource deallocation
2 module includes:
3 a deallocation listener method adapted to deallocate the allocated external
4 resources of each object of said user session responsive to a notification of the impending
5 termination of said user session.

1 18. The system as set forth in claim 17, wherein the resource deallocation
2 module is linked to the software program by registration of the deallocation listener
3 method with said user session.

1 19. The system as set forth in claim 17, wherein the resource deallocation
2 module is linked to the software program by an assignment of an attribute of said user
3 session to the deallocation listener method.

1 20. The system as set forth in claim 15, further including:
2 an object graph defining an interrelationship between objects of said user session,
3 the resource deallocation module being adapted to access the object graph to identify the
4 objects of the user session.

1 21. The system as set forth in claim 15, wherein the automatic memory
2 management module is invoked by the software program to process a plurality of user
3 sessions including said user session.

1 22. The system as set forth in claim 15, wherein the automatic memory
2 management module is invoked by an operating system to process software including
3 said software program that operate under said operating system.

1 23. The system as set forth in claim 15, wherein the resource deallocation
2 module is integrated with the automatic memory management module as a single unitary
3 memory management unit that executes prior to the termination of said user session.